

To: dthomas1@mail.hq.nasa.gov
From: Sharon Holgerson <sholger1@hq.nasa.gov>
Subject: Request for guidance
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dan,

Re our conversation, I am sending this copy of the portion of the weekly FOIA issues report I am required to submit to my supervisor, Evelyn Thames, who then forwards the info to Glenn Mahone, Acting AA for Public Affairs. Could you please check into what, if any, guidance we can issue that would apply agencywide regarding this issue? Please let me know if you can provide some guidance to me as to how to proceed with this. Thanks, Sharon

Excerpt from Code P FOIA Issues report - 10/25/01

Issues have come up regarding the new FOIA policy guidance from DOJ reported in last week's FOIA input (see paragraph below). I have received calls that some of the Centers are shutting down many web sites and this is causing concern to the FOIA Offices. Also it is generating many questions from the public, particularly to the FOIA Offices. I believe we may need to develop guidance on this issue agencywide, especially as it relates to FOIA. I will pursue this further with Code G and the CIO's office.

Attorney General Ashcroft issued new FOIA policy guidance on Friday, October 12, 2001. As a result, I attended a meeting held by the DOJ's Office of Information and Privacy to discuss and distribute the new policy memorandum. An article also appeared in the Washington Post on October 17 with the headline, "Ashcroft Urges Caution with FOIA Requests." One of the concerns raised by several agencies at the meeting was an issue of previously released records (prior to Sept. 11 events) which now may be considered more sensitive in nature and should not be made readily available to the public. Examples were floorplans of facilities, personnel directories (particularly military) and policies & procedures, some of which had routinely been put on the agency web sites and are now being removed. We were also told that new protective legislation is being discussed to further support withholding restrictions under FOIA.